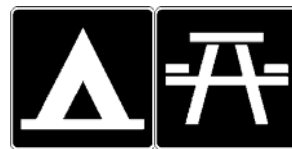


TONTO National Forest



Recreation
Opportunity
Guide

www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto



CAMPING AND PICNICKING

SHEEP BRIDGE

RANGER DISTRICT

Cave Creek Ranger Station
40202 N. Cave Creek Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85262
Phone: (480) 595-3300
Fax: (480) 595-3346

RELATED OPPORTUNITIES

Water recreation, fishing, hiking and rafting

SEASON OF USE

All year

ELEVATION

2100 feet

FEES

None

FACILITIES

None

LOCATION AND ACCESS

This site is 45 miles north of Carefree. From Carefree, take Cave Creek Road/Forest Road (FR) 24 for approximately 33 miles to the Bloody Basin-Tangle Creek area. At this junction of FR 24 and FR 269, turn right. Follow FR 269 for approximately 12 miles to the Sheep Bridge at the Verde River. Both FR 24 and FR 269 are narrow, unpaved roads with blind curves. A portion of FR 24 is maintained, but FR 269 is rarely maintained. A high-clearance vehicle is recommended. When muddy or rainy, four-wheel-drive is often required.

ATTRACTIONS

- On the banks high above the river stands a replica of the Verde River Sheep Bridge.
- The Flagstaff Sheep Company and the Howard Sheep Company constructed the original bridge to minimize the loss of sheep when crossing the river. The bridge was started in 1943 and finished in 1944 at a cost of \$7,277. The material used came from an Arizona mine and from a railroad line.
- On November 21, 1978, Sheep Bridge was entered into the National Register of Historic places.
- Sheep Bridge is the gateway to the west side of the Mazatzal Wilderness.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Caution:** Water levels fluctuate seasonally and the river can run with great velocity.
- Do not** cross flooded roadways.
- No trash services: **PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!!**
- No toilet.** Practice minimum impact by bringing a portable potty and disposing of the wastes properly.
- Trailers **not recommended**

NEAREST COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Carefree & Cave Creek: All services

RELATED INFORMATION SOURCES

- Arizona Rivers and Streams Guide*, Arizona State Parks
- Verde River Recreation Guide*, Jim Slingluff